

SEARCH REQUEST FORM

Scientific and Technical Information Center

Requester's Full Name: ROBERT E. MOSSEN Examiner #: 49875 Date: 2-10-04
Art Unit: 3714 Phone Number 305-4253 Serial Number: 10-087378
Mail Box and Bldg/Room Location: CP210D27 Results Format Preferred (circle): PAPER DISK E-MAIL

If more than one search is submitted, please prioritize searches in order of need.

Please provide a detailed statement of the search topic, and describe as specifically as possible the subject matter to be searched. Include the elected species or structures, keywords, synonyms, acronyms, and registry numbers, and combine with the concept or utility of the invention. Define any terms that may have a special meaning. Give examples or relevant citations, authors, etc, if known. Please attach a copy of the cover sheet, pertinent claims, and abstract.

Title of Invention: TARGET-BASED WAGERING SYSTEM AND METHOD
Inventors (please provide full names): LUCIANO, ROBT. ANTHONY

Earliest Priority Filing Date: 1-26-2001

For Sequence Searches Only Please include all pertinent information (parent, child, divisional, or issued patent numbers) along with the appropriate serial number.

NEED REF TO TEACH
"A player bringing thier own golf balls to a driving RANGE FOR USE."
- Typically the balls are "rented" at the range so as to Avoid the loss of A pbyers personal golf balls.
- For pertence this should be used in/at a public driving RANGE.

Best Available Copy

STAFF USE ONLY		Type of Search	Vendors and cost where applicable
Searcher: EMORY DAMRON	NA Sequence (#)	STN	
Searcher Phone #: 3058587	AA Sequence (#)	Dialog	131.34
Searcher Location: CP22C8	Structure (#)	Questel/Orbit	
Date Searcher Picked Up: 2/12/04 8:35a	Bibliographic	Dr.Link	
Date Completed: 2/13/04 9:42am	Litigation	Lexis/Nexis	
Searcher Prep & Review Time: 98min	Fulltext	Sequence Systems	
Clerical Prep Time: 0	Patent Family	WWW/Internet	
Online Time: 98min	Other	Other (specify)	



STIC Search Report

EIC 3700

STIC Database Tracking Number: 113980

TO: Robert Mosser
Location: cp2 10d27
Art Unit: 3714
Friday, February 13, 2004

Case Serial Number: 10/087378

From: Emory Damron
Location: EIC 3700
CP2-2C08
Phone: 305-8587

Emory.Damron@uspto.gov

Search Notes

Dear Robert,

Please find below an inventor search in the bibliographic and full-text foreign patent files, as well as keyword searches in the patent and non-patent literature files, both bibliographic and full text.

References of potential pertinence have been tagged, but please review all the packets in case you like something I didn't.

In addition to searching on Dialog, I also searched Google.com and EPO/JPO/Derwent.

I found some good references in the full text nonpatent literature packet and in the foreign patent literature, full text packet. I also included an internet printout from the summer of 2001 which may be of use to you.

Please contact me if I can refocus or expand any aspect of this case.

Sincerely,

Emory Damron

Technical Information Specialist

EIC 3700, US Patent & Trademark Office

Phone: (703) 305-8587/ Fax: (703) 306-5915

Emory.damron@uspto.gov





STIC Search Results Feedback Form

EIC 3700

Questions about the scope or the results of the search? Contact **the EIC searcher or contact:**

John Sims, EIC 3700 Team Leader
308-4836, CP2-2C08

Voluntary Results Feedback Form

➤ I am an examiner in Workgroup: 3714 Example: 3730

➤ Relevant prior art **found**, search results used as follows:

- ☐ 102 rejection
- ☐ 103 rejection
- ☐ Cited as being of interest.
- ☐ Helped examiner better understand the invention.
- ☐ Helped examiner better understand the state of the art in their technology.

Types of relevant prior art found:

- ☐ Foreign Patent(s)
- ☐ Non-Patent Literature
(journal articles, conference proceedings, new product announcements etc.)

➤ Relevant prior art **not found**:

- ☐ Results verified the lack of relevant prior art (helped determine patentability).
- ☐ Results were not useful in determining patentability or understanding the invention.

Comments:

Drop off or send completed forms to STIC/EIC3700 CP2 2C08



Set	Items	Description
S1	66	AU=(LUCIANO R? OR LUCIANO, R?)
S2	35833	GOLF???
S3	76928	IC=A63B?
S4	3	S1 AND S2:S3

? show files

File 347:JAPIO Oct 1976-2003/Oct(Updated 040202)

(c) 2004 JPO & JAPIO

File 350:Derwent WPIX 1963-2004/UD,UM &UP=200410

(c) 2004 Thomson Derwent

?

4/3,K/1 (Item 1 from file: 350)
DIALOG(R)File 350:Derwent WPIX
(c) 2004 Thomson Derwent. All rts. reserv.

014140048 **Image available**
WPI Acc No: 2001-624259/200172
XRPX Acc No: N01-465079

Hybrid hand/eye coordination and traditional gaming apparatus has identical controllers to display traditional game only after playing non-traditional game

Patent Assignee: INT GAME TECHNOLOGY (ITGA-N)
Inventor: BAERLOCHER A J; BRUNE C T; **LUCIANO R A** ; MAYEROFF J
Number of Countries: 001 Number of Patents: 001
Patent Family:
Patent No Kind Date Applicat No Kind Date Week
US 6267669 B1 20010731 US 99450825 A 19991129 200172 B

Priority Applications (No Type Date): US 99450825 A 19991129

Patent Details:

Patent No	Kind	Lan	Pg	Main IPC	Filing Notes
US 6267669	B1		15	A63F-013/00	

...Inventor: **LUCIANO R A**

Abstract (Basic):

... non-traditional games such as simulated fighting games, simulated shooting games, simulated driving games, simulated **golf** game, simulated basket game, and other sports game, in wide area progressive gaming system...

4/3,K/2 (Item 2 from file: 350)
DIALOG(R)File 350:Derwent WPIX
(c) 2004 Thomson Derwent. All rts. reserv.

013278635 **Image available**
WPI Acc No: 2000-450570/200039
XRPX Acc No: N00-335329

Playing method of multistage wagering game, involves awarding large prize when outputs of two random game stages are of predefined prize winning outputs

Patent Assignee: LUCIANO R A (LUCI-I)
Inventor: **LUCIANO R A**
Number of Countries: 001 Number of Patents: 001
Patent Family:
Patent No Kind Date Applicat No Kind Date Week
US 6062980 A 20000516 US 97858226 A 19970519 200039 B

Priority Applications (No Type Date): US 97858226 A 19970519

Patent Details:

Patent No	Kind	Lan	Pg	Main IPC	Filing Notes
US 6062980	A		9	A63B-015/00	

Inventor: **LUCIANO R A**

International Patent Class (Main): **A63B-015/00**

4/3,K/3 (Item 3 from file: 350)
DIALOG(R)File 350:Derwent WPIX
(c) 2004 Thomson Derwent. All rts. reserv.

012317359 **Image available**
WPI Acc No: 1999-123465/199911
Related WPI Acc No: 2004-037144
XRPX Acc No: N99-090345

Gaming machine with video display

Patent Assignee: INT GAME TECHNOLOGY (ITGA-N); IGT (IGTI-N)
Inventor: GRISWOLD C W; HEDRICK J R; LEGRAS J P; **LUCIANO R A** ; STEPHAN D C
; HENDRICK J R

Number of Countries: 031 Number of Patents: 013

Patent Family:

Patent No	Kind	Date	Applicat No	Kind	Date	Week
EP 896308	A1	19990210	EP 98111287	A	19980618	199911 B
AU 9878858	A	19990218	AU 9878858	A	19980807	199919
JP 11099283	A	19990413	JP 98222867	A	19980806	199925
ZA 9807113	A	19990526	ZA 987113	A	19980807	199927
CA 2238676	A	19990208	CA 2238676	A	19980526	199930
US 6135884	A	20001024	US 97910924	A	19970808	200055
BR 9806529	A	20010313	BR 986529	A	19980807	200118
US 6368216	B1	20020409	US 97910924	A	19970808	200227
			US 2000615968	A	20000714	
AU 746506	B	20020502	AU 9878858	A	19980807	200238
JP 2002095786	A	20020402	JP 98222867	A	19980806	200238
			JP 2001233497	A	19980806	
CA 2238676	C	20030819	CA 2238676	A	19980526	200357
EP 896308	B1	20031008	EP 98111287	A	19980618	200370
			EP 200317791	A	19980618	
DE 69818767	E	20031113	DE 618767	A	19980618	200382
			EP 98111287	A	19980618	

Priority Applications (No Type Date): US 97910924 A 19970808; US 2000615968
A 20000714

Patent Details:

Patent No	Kind	Lan	Pg	Main IPC	Filing Notes
EP 896308	A1	E	39	G07F-017/34	
Designated States (Regional): AL AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LT LU LV MC MK NL PT RO SE SI					
AU 9878858	A			A63F-009/22	
JP 11099283	A		28	A63F-009/22	
ZA 9807113	A		57	A63B-000/00	
CA 2238676	A			G07C-015/00	
US 6135884	A			A63F-009/22	
BR 9806529	A			G07F-017/34	
US 6368216	B1			A63F-013/00	Cont of application US 97910924 Cont of patent US 6135884
AU 746506	B			A63F-009/22	Previous Publ. patent AU 9878858
JP 2002095786	A		27	A63F-005/04	Div ex application JP 98222867
CA 2238676	C	E		G07C-015/00	
EP 896308	B1	E		G07F-017/34	Related to application EP 200317791
Designated States (Regional): BE DE ES FR GB GR IT NL SE					
DE 69818767	E			G07F-017/34	Based on patent EP 896308

...Inventor: **LUCIANO R A**

International Patent Class (Main): **A63B-000/00** ...

Set	Items	Description
S1	16	AU=(LUCIANO R? OR LUCIANO, R?)
S2	7409	GOLF???
S3	10045	IC=A63B?
S4	0	S1 AND S2:S3

? show files

File 348:EUROPEAN PATENTS 1978-2004/Feb W01

(c) 2004 European Patent Office

File 349:PCT FULLTEXT 1979-2002/UB=20040212,UT=20040205

(c) 2004 WIPO/Univentio

Set	Items	Description
S1	110	AU=(LUCIANO R? OR LUCIANO, R?)
S2	28711	GOLF???
S3	0	S1 AND S2

? show files

File 94:JICST-EPlus 1985-2004/Feb W1
(c)2004 Japan Science and Tech Corp(JST)

File 95:TEME-Technology & Management 1989-2004/Jan W4
(c) 2004 FIZ TECHNIK

File 99:Wilson Appl. Sci & Tech Abs 1983-2004/Jan
(c) 2004 The HW Wilson Co.

File 35:Dissertation Abs Online 1861-2004/Jan
(c) 2004 ProQuest Info&Learning

File 111:TGG Natl.Newspaper Index(SM) 1979-2004/Feb 11
(c) 2004 The Gale Group

File 583:Gale Group Globalbase(TM) 1986-2002/Dec 13
(c) 2002 The Gale Group

File 6:NTIS 1964-2004/Feb W2
(c) 2004 NTIS, Intl Cpyrght All Rights Res

File 8:Ei Compendex(R) 1970-2004/Feb W1
(c) 2004 Elsevier Eng. Info. Inc.

File 34:SciSearch(R) Cited Ref Sci 1990-2004/Feb W2
(c) 2004 Inst for Sci Info

File 434:SciSearch(R) Cited Ref Sci 1974-1989/Dec
(c) 1998 Inst for Sci Info

? pause

?

Set	Items	Description
S1	20	AU=(LUCIANO R? OR LUCIANO, R?)
S2	237787	GOLF???
S3	0	S1 AND S2

? show files

File 9:Business & Industry(R) Jul/1994-2004/Feb 12
(c) 2004 Resp. DB Svcs.

File 16:Gale Group PROMT(R) 1990-2004/Feb 13
(c) 2004 The Gale Group

File 47:Gale Group Magazine DB(TM) 1959-2004/Feb 12
(c) 2004 The Gale group

File 80:TGG Aerospace/Def.Mkts(R) 1986-2004/Feb 13
(c) 2004 The Gale Group

File 141:Readers Guide 1983-2004/Jan
(c) 2004 The HW Wilson Co

File 148:Gale Group Trade & Industry DB 1976-2004/Feb 13
(c)2004 The Gale Group

File 160:Gale Group PROMT(R) 1972-1989
(c) 1999 The Gale Group

File 397:Las Vegas Review-Journal 1997-2004/Feb 12
(c) 2004 Las Vegas R-J

Set	Items	Description
S1	35833	GOLF???
S2	6527	(GOLF??? OR PRACTIS??? OR PRACTIC??? OR DRIVE? ? OR DRIVING OR TEESHOT OR TEE()SHOT)(3N)RANGE? ?
S3	133	(PERSONAL OR OWN)(2N)(BALL? ? OR GOLFBALL? ? OR GOLF???)B- ALL? ?)
S4	76928	IC=A63B?
S5	0	S1 AND S2 AND S3

? show files

File 347:JAPIO Oct 1976-2003/Oct(Updated 040202)
(c) 2004 JPO & JAPIO

File 350:Derwent WPIX 1963-2004/UD,UM &UP=200410
(c) 2004 Thomson Derwent

Set	Items	Description
S1	7409	GOLF???
S2	9537	(GOLF??? OR PRACTIS??? OR PRACTIC??? OR DRIVE? ? OR DRIVING OR TEESHOT OR TEE()SHOT) (3N)RANGE? ?
S3	100	(PERSONAL OR OWN) (2N) (BALL? ? OR GOLFBALL? ? OR GOLF???)B- ALL? ?)
S4	10045	IC=A63B?
S5	9	S1 AND S2 AND S3
S6	8	S5 AND S4
S7	9	S5:S6

? show files

File 348:EUROPEAN PATENTS 1978-2004/Feb W01

(c) 2004 European Patent Office

File 349:PCT FULLTEXT 1979-2002/UB=20040212,UT=20040205

(c) 2004 WIPO/Univentio

7/3,K/2 (Item 2 from file: 349)
DIALOG(R)File 349:PCT FULLTEXT
(c) 2004 WIPO/Univentio. All rts. reserv.

00972508 **Image available**

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR UNIQUELY IDENTIFYING A GOLF BALL AT A TARGET
PROCEDE ET APPAREIL D'IDENTIFICATION UNIQUE D'UNE BALLE DE GOLF SUR UNE
CIBLE**

Patent Applicant/Inventor:

AINSWORTH Clifford L, 605 - 3rd Avenue SW, Salmon Arm, British Columbia
V1E 1T1, CA, CA (Residence), CA (Nationality)

LEACH Robert G, 605 - 3rd Avenue SW, Salmon Arm, British Columbia V1E 1T1
, CA, CA (Residence), CA (Nationality)

Legal Representative:

EDWARDS Antony C (agent), Petraroia Langford Edwards & Rush, Suite 800 -
1708 Dolphin Avenue, Kelowna, British Columbia V1Y 9S4, CA,

Patent and Priority Information (Country, Number, Date):

Patent: WO 200302209 A2-A3 20030109 (WO 0302209)

Application: WO 2002CA1000 20020628 (PCT/WO CA0201000)

Priority Application: US 2001301473 20010629; US 2001336098 20011206

Designated States: AE AG AL AM AT AU AZ BA BB BG BR BY BZ CA CH CN CO CR CU

CZ DE DK DM DZ EC EE ES FI GB GD GE GH GM HR HU ID IL IN IS JP KE KG KP

KR KZ LC LK LR LS LT LU LV MA MD MG MK MN MW MX MZ NO NZ OM PH PL PT RO

RU SD SE SG SI SK SL TJ TM TN TR TT TZ UA UG US UZ VN YU ZA ZM ZW

(EP) AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LU MC NL PT SE TR

(OA) BF BJ CF CG CI CM GA GN GQ GW ML MR NE SN TD TG

(AP) GH GM KE LS MW MZ SD SL SZ TZ UG ZM ZW

(EA) AM AZ BY KG KZ MD RU TJ TM

Publication Language: English

Filing Language: English

Fulltext Word Count: 8450

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR UNIQUELY IDENTIFYING A GOLF BALL AT A TARGET
PROCEDE ET APPAREIL D'IDENTIFICATION UNIQUE D'UNE BALLE DE GOLF SUR UNE
CIBLE**

Main International Patent Class: A63B-069/36

International Patent Class: A63B-057/00

Fulltext Availability:

Detailed Description

Claims

English Abstract

An apparatus for uniquely identifying a **golf** ball at a target includes
a simulated **golfing** green having one or multiple target area apertures
therein. A ball collector is mounted under...

...cooperates with the ball collector for identifying uniquely identified
game balls from non-uniquely identified **golf** balls and transmits
identity information corresponding to each game ball of the game balls to
a remote processing station for correlating the identity of a **golfer**
with the identity information. A surveillance means cooperates with the
first target area so as...

...monitoring of the first target area. A first signal means is provided
for signalling the **golfer** and a remote monitor when a uniquely
identified game ball has entered the aperture. A...

...a uniquely identified game ball lands in the first target area and for

signalling the **golfer** and a remote monitor upon such detection.

French Abstract

L'invention concerne un appareil permettant l'identification unique d'une balle de **golf** sur une cible comportant un green de **golf** simulé pourvu d'un ou de plusieurs trous sur des zones cibles. Un collecteur de...

...pour identifier les balles de jeu identifiées de façon unique à partir de balles de **golf** identifiées de façon non unique et transmet les informations d'identité correspondant à chaque balle de **golf** parmi lesdites balles de **golf** à un poste de traitement distant pour mettre en corrélation l'identité du **golfeur** avec les informations d'identité. Un dispositif de surveillance coopère avec la première zone cible...

...distance de la première zone cible. Un premier dispositif de signal permet d'avertir le **golfeur** et un moniteur distant lorsqu'une balle de jeu a une identification unique entre dans le...

...de jeu identifiée de façon unique sur la première zone cible et d'avertir le **golfeur** et le moniteur distant de cette détection.

Detailed Description

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR UNIQUELY IDENTIFYING A **GOLF** BALL AT A TARGET

Field of the Invention

This invention relates to sports generally, and in particular, to a method and apparatus to improve the sport of **golf** by providing for uniquely identifying a prize-winning **golf** ball which is sunk in a target hole or otherwise lands on a designated target area. The methods described for identifying, for example, a unique hole-in-one **golf** ball may also be used to identify **golf** balls that successfully reach other target areas or holes.

In the sport of **golf**, hitting a so-called ...of the successful player. It is so difficult to achieve that often in professionally organized **golf** tournaments a hole-in-one earns the successful player a prize, independent of who wins...an insurance claim. In this instance, and in many other instances in playing and practicing **golf**, the identification, verification and surveillance of prize winning **golf** balls would be advantageous, and it is an object of the present invention to provide same.

In the prior art, applicant is aware of various attempts to identify and locate **golf** balls, for example, Canadian Patent No. 2,324,541 which issued to Jolliffe, United States...prior art teaches and it is an object of the present invention to provide, a **golf** ball identification system which allows **golfers**, for example in a **driving range**, to test their skill at sinking a **golf** ball in a W6-in-one or other supplied target areas and to be uniquely...

...invention, a computer-controlled system causes a vending machine to distribute one uniquely marked/identified **golf** ball with, for example, each bucket of balls requested by a **golfer**. The marked ball is marked or otherwise identified to uniquely identify that **golfer**. Each **golfer** may purchase extra marked/identified balls from a centrally located ...be digital) and, for example, by use of printing mechanisms to uniquely identify a particular **golf** ball.

Each system includes a pair of simulated green and cup/target assemblies, each having...means embedded beneath the green and cooperating with the cup for detecting and identifying any **golf** balls falling into the cup

or other target areas. Alternatively, a single simulated green and...

...at a remote location for monitoring the green and cup assembly.

The object is for **golfers** to aim **golf** balls at the green and cup/target assemblies so as to sink one of the...assembly allows for verification that the ball was in fact likely legitimately shot by a **golfer** rather than being fraudulently deliberately placed into the cup by a **golfer** merely walking up to the green and cup assembly. A successful hole-in-one shot **golfer** .

According to one aspect of the present invention, in one arrangement a green I 0...assembly.

In summary, the apparatus for uniquely identifying a hole-in-one and other target **golf** balls includes in one embodiment, a pair of assemblies mountable into a **golf** green, or simulating such, spaced apart within a visual surveillance distance of one another. Each identification means for detecting a **golf** ball in a cup in said assembly and for inspecting said ball to allow identification...

...as to allow correlation of the particular uniquely marked/identified ball to a corresponding successful **golfer** . In a related embodiment, a single remote surveillance means monitors a single target and ball detection/11) assembly.

I 0 The apparatus of the present invention for uniquely identifying a **golf** ball at a target includes a simulated **golfing** green first target area ...cooperates with the ball collector for identifying uniquely identified game balls from non-uniquely identified **golf** balls and transmits identity information corresponding to each game ball of the game balls to a 5 remote processing station for correlating the identity of a **golfer** with the identity information.

A surveillance means cooperates with the first target area so as...

...monitoring of the first target area. A first signal means is provided for signalling the **golfer** and a remote ...a uniquely identified game ball lands on the first target area and for signalling the **golfer** and a remote monitor upon such detection.

The simulated **golfing** green may further include at least a second target area which at least partially surrounds...

...a uniquely identified game ball lands on the second target area and for signalling the **golfer** and a remote monitor upon such detection. Identity correlation means identifying the game ball and correlating the game ball to a **golfer** . A ball collector strip may be mounted on the second target area.

4

The simulated **golfing** green may further include a landing zone adjacent the target areas and disposed so as to lie between the target areas and the **golfer** . The simulated **golfing** green may be inclined upwardly from the horizontal towards the **golfer** .

A second simulated **golfing** green may be provided which is substantially identical to the first simulated **golfing** green. The second **golfing** green is positioned apart from the first simulated **golfing** green. A second surveillance means cooperates with the second simulated **golfing**

green. The first surveillance means has a first field of view which includes the second simulated **golfing** green and wherein the second surveillance means has a second field of view which includes the first simulated **golfing** green.

The ball identification means may include both radio frequency identification transponders mountable into the...Culling means may be provided for culling the game balls from the non-uniquely identified **golf** balls.

5

In an alternative embodiment, multiple ball collectors located under the hole-in-one aperture...

...up a multiple win zone configuration identifying uniquely identified game balls from non-uniquely identified **golf** balls and transmits identity information corresponding to each game ball of the game balls to a remote processing station for correlating the identity.

of a **golfer** with the identity information.

The method of the present invention for uniquely identifying a **golf** ball at a target includes the steps of (a) providing a simulated **golfing** green first target area having a hole-in-one aperture therein,

(b) providing a ball collector mounted under the aperture and detecting **golf** balls

entering the aperture,

(c) providing a ball identification means cooperating with the ball collector and identifying uniquely identified game balls from non-uniquely identified **golf** balls and transmitting identity information corresponding to each game ball ...of the game balls to a remote processing station and correlating the identity of a **golfer** with the identity information. Game balls may be separated before or after reaching the ball...

...remotely monitoring the first target area,

(e) providing a first signal means and signalling the **golfer** and a remote monitor

when a uniquely identified game ball has entered the aperture,

6 lands in the first target area and signalling the **golfer** and a remote monitor upon the detection.

The method may further include the step...

...when a uniquely identified game ball lands on the second target area and signalling the **golfer** and a remote monitor upon the detection, and correlating the identity of the game ball to a **golfer**.

The method may further include providing a second simulated **golfing** green substantially identical to the first simulated **golfing** green and positioning the second simulated **golfing** green apart from the first simulated **golfing** green, providing a second surveillance means cooperating with the second simulated **golfing** green. Aligning the surveillance means so that the first surveillance means has a first field of view which includes the second simulated **golfing** green and so that the second surveillance means has a second field of view which includes the first simulated **golfing** green. The second surveillance means monitors the first simulated **golfing** green and the first surveillance means simultaneously monitors the second simulated **golfing** green.

The ...and may also include sensing the game balls' colors and selecting game balls from other **golf** balls based on the color of the ball.

In the method of the present invention...Color or contrast sensors may be provided for sensing the color or contrast of a **golf** ball to determine whether the **golf** ball is of a selected color or contrast. The sensor data is processed to remove...

...processor's memory. A third pair of optical sensors are arranged to detect when a **golf** ball is in an eject location and, ...ball flow path.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 is, in plan view, a **driving range** incorporating the method and apparatus for uniquely identifying a hole-in-one **golf** ball of the present invention.

Figure 2 is a diagrammatic view of a system incorporating...conduit leading to a ball manifold.

Figure 8 is, in front perspective view, a simulated **golfing** green according to an alternative embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 9 is, in front elevation view, the simulated **golfing** green of Figure 8.

Figure 10 is a cross sectional view along line 1...the prior art. Each system according to the present invention may contain the following elements.

Golf Ball Identification - **Golf** balls are labeled and/or printed with identification marks on each ball to ensure verification...

...below. One method includes the use of radio frequency identification (RFID) transponders encapsulated within the **golf** ball.

9

Green Clearing System - With the addition of the system at a **driving range**, it is anticipated that a majority of ...below that will clear the green with little or no interference or interruption to the **golfer**.

Winning Golf Ball Verification - As described further below, **golf** balls as 10 they enter the green's cup are received and identified as... embedded ball identification camera or other ball identification sensor means, and a ball clearing system.

Golf Ball Identification/Marking - Techniques - Washable paints: balls are imprinted with unique codes that remain on...light).

Labels: self adhesive labels printed with unique identification codes/marks are applied to the **golf** ball. Normal washing/scrubbing removes the water-soluble label.

RFID: radio frequency identification transponders are encapsulated within each **golf** ball.

Green Clearing System - Techniques - Articulated green area assembly: a target green area approximately 16...to the periphery of the green area.

An above ground target platform, sloped so that **golf** balls

automatically clear the target area. Such an above ground target platform may also be...provide increased slope to the platform at timed intervals, to assist in the clearing of **golf** balls from the platform.

Winning **Golf** Ball Verification - Techniques - **Range** and marked/identified balls captured in the greens area cup/targets are processed by componentsthe operator of the **driving range** and/or the system administrator may review the photographic image(s). Images may be viewed...

...method, RFID receivers detect the presence and read the unique electronic serial number of the **golf** ball and transmit the unique serial number identification to the computer system.

POS Vending Kiosk...action may be initiated.

Thus as illustrated by way of example in Figure 1, the **driving range**
10

illustrated diagrammatically in plan view would have **golfers** (not shown) teeing off from teeboxes 12 so as to shoot **golf** balls in direction A towards green and cup assemblies 14 as better seen in Figures **golf** green, toward which **golfers** drive their **golf** balls. Green area 16 surrounds a generally

14 centrally disposed cup 18. A flag pole...16 may be of layered construction comprising a first layer 16a of material simulating a **golf** green surface, such as, for example Astro Turf TM , an underlying layer 16b of an...downwardly from the horizontal. This presentation towards the tee boxes provides greater visibility for the **golfer** and also provides 1 5 for self clearing of for balls landing on green area...a liquid crystal display or otherwise for example a touch screen which would allow a **golfer** to interface with terminal 44 for example to indicate the method of payment or the...

...dispenser 56.

Terminal 44 will then provide a ball identification service. Upon payment by the **golfer** , or otherwise as part of a promotion or playing of the game as may be arranged by the operator of the **driving range** , a **golf** ball will be provided or dispensed with a unique identification. Thus a **golfer** may insert one of his own **golf balls** 60 into cavity 62 so that, for example, a ball imprinting device 64 incorporating one...

...identification or marking techniques may uniquely identify ball 60. Alternately, the terminal will dispense a **golf** ball with an imbedded unique RFID transponder.

Thus a successful **golfer** will drive ball 60 from tee-box 12 so that in a hole-in-one shot **golf** ball 60 lands in or otherwise rolls into cup 18. Ball sensor 28 senses the presence of a **golf** ball in cup 18 and sends a notification signal via transmitter 42 so that an...

...for playback. Review of the video signal allows for checking to see whether, firstly, the **golf** ball in cup 18 is a marked ball 60, and, if it is a marked to correlate the ball to the successful **golfer** as part of the verification process prior to awarding prize money.

16

Alternatively, camera 30 may cooperate with ball collector 32 for inspection of **golf** balls falling from cup 18 into the ball collector. Alternatively the ball collector would include a sensor for the detection and identification of a **golf** ball with a unique RFID transponder. The

identification information would be transmitted by transmitter 42...in depth. The first eight feet of the target provides a landing area 102 for **golf** balls as they continue their approach to the target zones of targets 104, 106 and 108.

The target surfaces may be multiple layered, providing firstly, a synthetic **golf** green surface, secondly, multiple layers of for example resilient materials sandwiched into ...and, thirdly, a solid platform or base 107. The solid platform is presented to the **golfer** at a typical inclined angle of nine degrees from the horizontal so that the target is visually better presented to the **golfer** while providing the 'self clearing' feature. A sandwich of resilient materials provides a landing surface that emulates that of a **golf** green, whereby the energy a **golf** ball striking the target surface is absorbed, inhibiting the ball from erratic bouncing or otherwise...and a hole-in-one (H 0) cup 112 provide multiple 'win' zones for the **golfer**. The strips are releasably mounted so that their ball collector arrangement may be easily changed...
...metal profiles separated by approximately 1.25" to act as ball collector troughs whereby the **golf** balls span the two rods or metal profiles. The tracks are inclined at approximately 4...etc.) to fall through. The hole-in-one cup assembly is especially designed to trap **golf** balls and divert them to the ball sensor and identification sub systems. A combination of...

...collectors (including the H 0 cup) are provided with ball sensors (not shown). When a **golf** ball is sensed, multicolored strobe lights 114 are flashed, indicating to the **golfer** that a ball has successfully entered the ball collector and whether the ball is a cup. The immediate visual feedback to the **golfer** provides information regarding the **golfer**'s performance.

An impact sensor and associated multicolored strobe assembly 116 senses the impact of any **golf** ball landing on the target assembly, whether it enters the 'win' target zones or not. This multicolored (for example blue/white) strobe light provides visual feedback to the **golfer** that the **golfer** has achieved landing a **golf** ball anywhere on the target assembly.

18

Video surveillance cameras II 8 are located at...Techniques - These techniques apply to both the Kiosk Ball Dispenser and the Target Receivers. 'Game' **golf** balls (as opposed to range balls) are uniquely identified with embedded conventional RFID tags (transmitters). The **golf** ball RFID tag is interrogated (read and registered) as the ball is dispensed and also...and this results in poor reading reliability. The tag is located within a spherically shaped **golf** ball, 1 5 therefore there is no control over the orientation of the ball as...result in a 'non read' due to this orientation limitation. To reduce this problem the **golf** ball is motivated to roll through reading antenna coil 121 on a curved path such...specific users of the system. The status of the individually provided RFID cards allows the **golfer** to purchase game credits, which are recorded against his/her account. The Kiosk RFID ball dispenser/reader system is designed such that it also able to read the **golfer**'s user card ID and provide the **golfer** with dispensed balls as requested.

The history of the user's purchases and win activity...

...the system to record not only purchase/credit and win activity, but also rewards the **golfer** for loyalty. For example, performance over a period

of time could be rewarded with prizes...of the ball. To provide the least possible interruption to the normal flow of the **golf** ball collection, ball washing and ball dispensing in the **driving range** environment, as seen in Figure I I a ball sorter system is installed immediately at the exit of the **driving range** supplied **golf** ball washer 121. Balls that are determined to be game balls by the ball sorter...

...Kiosk dispensing system while normal range balls carry on their normal path to the existing **driving range golf** ball storage or dispensing
20
systems. Sorting by sensing the RFID tag uses conventional RFID...

Claim

I An apparatus for uniquely identifying a **golf** ball at a target comprising: a simulated **golfing** green first target area having a hole-in-one aperture therein,
ball collector mounted under...

...said ball collector for identifying uniquely I 0 identified game balls from non-uniquely identified **golf** balls and for transmitting identity information corresponding to each game ball of said game balls to a remote processing station for correlating the identity of a **golfer** with said identity information, a surveillance means cooperating with said first target area so as...1 5 monitoring of said first target area, a first signal means for signalling the **golfer** and a remote monitor when a uniquely identified game ball has entered said aperture,
a...

...a uniquely identified game ball lands in said first target area and for signalling the **golfer** and a remote monitor upon detection.

2 The device of claim I wherein said simulated **golfing** green further comprises at least a second target area which at least partially surrounds said lands on said second target area and for signalling the **golfer** and a remote monitor upon detection, identity correlation means identifying the game ball and correlating the game ball to a **golfer** .
23

. The device of claim 2 wherein at least one ball collector strip is mounted on said second target area.

4 The device of claim 3 wherein said simulated **golfing** green further includes a landing zone adjacent said target areas and disposed so as to lie between said target areas and the **golfer** .

5 The device of claim 4 wherein said simulated **golfing** green is inclined upwardly from the horizontal towards the **golfer** .

I 0

6 The device of claim I further comprising a second simulated **golfing** green substantially identical to said first simulated **golfing** green for positioning apart from said first simulated **golfing** green, a second surveillance means cooperating with said second simulated **golfing** green, wherein said first surveillance means has a first field of view which includes said second simulated **golfing** green and wherein said second surveillance means has a second field of view which includes said first simulated **golfing** green.

7 The device of claim I wherein said ball identification means includes radio frequency...coil, and wherein said ball identification means

includes a curved conduit adapted so that a **golf** ball rolls through said receiver antenna coil along a curved path such that the ball...as it passes through said receiver antenna coil.

15 A method for uniquely identifying a **golf** ball at a target comprising the steps of (a) providing a simulated **golfing** green first target area having a hole-in-one aperture therein,

(b) providing a ball collector mounted under said aperture and detecting **golf** balls entering the aperture,

1 5 (c) providing a ball identification means cooperating with said ball collector and identifying uniquely identified game balls from non-uniquely identified **golf** balls ...of said game balls to a remote processing station and correlating the identity of a

golfer with said identity information,

(d) providing a surveillance means cooperating with said first target area...

...remotely monitoring said first target area,

(e) providing a first signal means and signalling the **golfer** and a remote monitor

when a uniquely identified game ball has entered said aperture,

(f...

...when a uniquely identified game ball lands in said first target area and signalling the **golfer** and a remote monitor upon said detection.

26

. The method of claim 15 further comprising...

...when a uniquely identified game ball lands on said second target area and signalling the **golfer** and a remote monitor upon said detection, and correlating the identity of the game ball to a **golfer** .

17 The method of claim 16 further comprising providing a ball collector strip mounted on...said target areas and disposed so as to lie between said target areas and the **golfer** . 1 5 19. The method of claim 18 further comprising inclining said **golfing** green upwardly from the horizontal towards the **golfer** .

20 The method of claim 15 further comprising providing a second simulated **golfing** green substantially identical to said first simulated **golfing** green and positioning said second simulated **golfing** green apart from said first simulated **golfing** green, providing a second surveillance means cooperating with said second simulated **golfing** green, wherein said first surveillance means has a first field of view which includes said second simulated **golfing** green and wherein said second surveillance means has a second field of view which includes said first simulated **golfing** green, and said second surveillance means monitoring said first simulated **golfing** green and said first surveillance means simultaneously monitoring said second simulated **golfing** green.

21 The method of claim 15 further comprising providing radio frequency identification transponders and...sensing the game balls' colors so as to identify and sort game balls from other **golf** balls based on the color of the ball.

23 The method of claim 15 wherein...15 includes providing color or contrast sensors and sensing the color or contrast of a **golf** ball to determine whether the **golf** ball is of a selected color or contrast, processing the sensor data to remove interference...claim 24 includes

providing a third pair of optical sensors arranged to detect when a **golf** ball is in an eject location and, based on said differentiation data, ejecting game balls...

7/3,K/6 (Item 6 from file: 349)
DIALOG(R)File 349:PCT FULLTEXT
(c) 2004 WIPO/Univentio. All rts. reserv.

00425815 **Image available**

GOLF COURSE OF REDUCED SIZE AND METHOD OF PLAYING SAME
TERRAIN DE GOLF DE DIMENSIONS REDUITES ET METHODE DE JEU

Patent Applicant/Assignee:

ROGERS DESIGN,
ROGERS W Clark,

Inventor(s):

ROGERS W Clark,

Patent and Priority Information (Country, Number, Date):

Patent: WO 9816278 A1 19980423

Application: WO 97US18532 19971009 (PCT/WO US9718532)

Priority Application: US 9628403 19961011

Designated States: AL AM AT AU AZ BA BB BG BR BY CA CH CN CU CZ DE DK EE ES
FI GB GE HU ID IL IS JP KE KG KP KR KZ LC LK LR LS LT LU LV MD MG MK MN
MW MX NO NZ PL PT RO RU SD SE SG SI SK TJ TM TR TT UA UG US UZ VN YU ZW
GH KE LS MW SD SZ UG ZW AM AZ BY KG KZ MD RU TJ TM AT BE CH DE DK ES FI
FR GB GR IE IT LU MC NL PT SE BF BJ CF CG CI CM GA GN ML MR NE SN TD TG

Publication Language: English

Fulltext Word Count: 3494

GOLF COURSE OF REDUCED SIZE AND METHOD OF PLAYING SAME
TERRAIN DE GOLF DE DIMENSIONS REDUITES ET METHODE DE JEU

Main International Patent Class: A63B-067/02

Fulltext Availability:

Detailed Description
Claims

English Abstract

The **golf** course (20) of the present invention includes a larger
generally open teeing area (19) and...

...dispersed hole area (1-18) of the course, which comprises a series of
shorter length **golf** holes. At the teeing area (19), the **golfer** will
repeatedly tee and drive **golf** balls while aiming at one of several
different targets on the range, each of which corresponds to a different
hole of the hole area. The **golfer** records the results of these tee
shots. After completing all required tee shots, the **golfer** proceeds to
the hole area and, based on the results of the corresponding tee shot,
the **golfer** will position a **golf** ball on the fairway or other portion
of each of these holes and continue play in a normal fashion. In this
manner, the course can provide a **golf** experience more resembling that
of regulation **golf** than a par 3 or executive course without requiring
as much land area.

French Abstract

La presente invention concerne un terrain de **golf** (20) qui inclut un
large tertre de depart (19) generalement ouvert et une zone de trous
(1-18) plus disperses comprenant une serie de trous de **golf** de longueur
reduite. Sur le tertre de depart (19), le **golfeur** sureleve a plusieurs
reprises des balles de **golf** et leur donne des coups de depart, visant
l'une des cibles a sa portee...

...continue de jouer de facon normale. Le terrain decrit dans la presente
invention offre au **golfeur** la possibilite de jouer un jeu qui ressemble
davantage a un **golf** reglementaire qu'a une normale 3 ou a un terrain de
type "executive", sans demander...

Detailed Description

GOLF COURSE OF REDUCED SIZE AND METHOD OF PLAYING SAME

Field of Invention

The present invention relates to a method of playing **golf** on a course of reduced size which retains the variety of shots and the challenge of playing **golf** on a course of greater length

5

Background of the Invention

A typical full length regulation **golf** course includes holes of a wide variety of lengths. These holes on a full length **golf** course are generally divided between par 3 holes which typically range from 90 to 250...length, and par 5 holes which typically range from 450 to 600 yards in length. **Golfers** play these holes from one of several sets of teeing areas which are positioned at slightly different distances from the hole on the **golf** green. The variation in length of the individual holes enables a single course to vary...

...varying skill

Although there are wide variations in the layout and dimensions of full length **golf** courses, the holes generally have an aggregate overall length between 5500 to yards and play...hours, but it is not unusual for a round to require 5 hours or more

Golf courses of reduced length have been created to reduce the investment in purchasing and maintaining the acreage necessary for a full length **golf** course which is prohibitively costly in some areas. Additionally, on these reduced length courses a round can typically be played much quicker than on a full length course. **Golf** courses of this type include "Par 3" courses in which all the holes of the...are not as challenging as full length courses because they generally do not require a **golfer** to hit shots of varying length and difficulty that are required by a full length...

...reduced land requirement and reduced playing time of "Par 3" and "Executive" courses while allowing **golfers** to hit a range of **golf** shots of varying length typical of a full length **golf** course. These advantages include reduced land requirements for **golf** course development, reduced course maintenance, and reduced playing time. The **golf** course includes a larger generally open teeing area and a more dispersed hole area of the course which comprises a series of shorter length **golf** holes. At the teeing area, the **golfer** will repeatedly tee and drive **golf** balls while aiming at one of several different targets on the range, each of which corresponds to a different hole of the hole area. The **golfer** records the results of these tee shots. After completing all required tee shots, the **golfer** proceeds to the hole area and, based on the results of the corresponding tee shot, the **golfer** will position a **golf** ball on the fairway or other portion of each of these holes and continue play...

...requiring the tee shot and drop procedure. In this manner, the course can provide a **golf** experience more resembling that of regulation **golf** than a par 3 or executive course without requiring as much ...land area

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 is an plan view of a **golf** course layout of the present invention set

within a housing development

Figure 2 illustrates a...

...SHEET (RULE 26)

3

Detailed Description of the Invention

Referring now to Figure 1, a **golf** course of the present invention, designated broadly at 20, is illustrated. The **golf** course 20 includes a teeing area 19, and holes sequentially designated 1 through 18, each holes 1 through 18 illustratively and preferably comprise a typical "executive" style **golf** course. The holes are serially arranged such that the green area of each hole is...no hazards) can be used with the present invention to simulate different teeing conditions

Playing **golf** by the method of the present invention requires **golfers** to hit a predetermined number of tee shots for a selected number of holes from the teeing area 19. With the illustrated layout, a **golfer** will hit two tee shots from one tee and three tee shots from each of...the next tee, preferably in pairs to help one another track tee shots

Typically, a **range tee shot** must travel a minimum distance in order to be placed on the fairway portion of...such as those described below

Any means of tracking and recording the position of the **golf** ball after the drive from the teeing area can be employed, including paper cards with...

...laser tracking, and satellite global positioning. One preferred method of recording the position of the **golf** ball after the drive is by using yardage signs on the range in conjunction with...designations of the range flags or signs. For example, a teeing area 19 of a **golf** course 20 of the present invention may be marked by a set of yardage signs... which are usually retrieved by the course, not the player. The course may also allow **golfers** to elect to hit their **own golf balls** from the tees and enlist a caddie or range attendant to retrieve them. Each participating...

...and targets
for tee shots

After all required tee shots are made and recorded, the **golfers** move from the teeing area 19 to the holes 1 through 18 to play these holes in sequence. Generally, U.S. **Golf** Association rules will govern all play after the transition from tee shots to approach shots...

...reduced length par 58 course is the ideal candidate for adapting this method of playing **golf**, but an existing course layout can be accommodated by designing tee ranges and tracking and recording means, such as a specially designed scorecard, to suit the layout of the particular **golf** course. It is also anticipated that courses will be specifically designed for using this method of playing **golf**

In a preferred embodiment of the present **golf** course, the following rules can govern the positioning of a ball on the course to closely duplicate the lie of the **range tee shot** for each hole and to make the transition from the teeing area 19 to holes ball on the course at a location

corresponding to the **range tee shot** for that hole. Holes are thus played in sequence as extensions of the range tee...not be placed closer to the cup than thirty feet (ten paces)

4. If the **range tee shot** lands out-of-bounds, the player must either:
a) Hit another tee shot under U...

...the approach shot from the teeing area on the hole being played

5. If the **range tee shot** lands in a sand trap, ...add 90 yards to the tee shot, and drop in the fairway

6. If the **range tee shot** lands in water or other unplayable hazard, the player must add a 1 stroke penalty...contains a rules section 210 with a brief description of the special rules for playing **golf** according to the present

SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)
invention and/or special information about **golf** in general or **golf** according to the present invention. The scorecard 200 also includes a special scorekeeping spreadsheet 220...hole 222, the par of each hole 223, and the minimum distance required for a **range tee shot** to reach the area of the hole 224. The scorekeeping area 200 also provides a box for the **golfer** to record the distance and placement of each **range tee shot**. Finally, the scorekeeping spreadsheet 200 includes sections for entry of other information typical of a **golf** scorecard, such as the total score and the net score for a round of **golf**. The scorecard may also contain a legend 230 explaining ...The different lengths of the individual holes may allow longer, more challenging holes for experienced **golfers** and shorter holes for less experienced **golfers**. In this embodiment of the invention, each player can hit a tee shot from the... was actually hit on the tee. For example, a shorter distance course may allow a **golfer** to add 25 yards to a tee shot. Thus, according to the above designations, a **golfer** playing a shorter course who hit a 175 yard drive which landed at the "maroon...

...yards) on the corresponding course hole

As can be seen by the foregoing discussion, the **golf** course of the present invention can serve as an alternative to a regulation length **golf** course in a smaller area, yet still provide many of the challenges, and in particular...

Claim

9

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

1. A method of playing a round of **golf**, comprising the steps of:
hitting a plurality of tee shots from a designated tee area to initiate play on a plurality of **golf** holes; then
recording the final resting position of each of said plurality of tee shots...

...plurality of fairways and greens, each of which corresponds to one of said plurality of **golf** holes; then positioning a **golf** ball on at least some of said plurality ...of said fairways toward said greens to complete play on each of said plurality of **golf** holes.

2. The method defined in Claim 1, wherein said designated tee area comprises multiple...

...positions, each of which corresponds to a different set of holes within said plurality of **golf** holes.

3. The method defined in Claim 1, wherein said plurality of **golf** holes comprises eighteen holes.

4. The method defined in Claim 3, wherein said first ...tee shots.

5. The method defined in Claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of **golf** holes comprises its own separate teeing area contiguous with its fairway.

6. The method defined...

...of said fairways include indicia corresponding to said tee area indicia to indicate where said **golf** ball is to be positioned in said positioning step.

SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

10

7...of said hazard areas, and wherein said positioning step comprises adjusting the position of said **golf** ball on one of said fairways when a corresponding tee shot has come to

7/3,K/7 (Item 7 from file: 349)
DIALOG(R)File 349:PCT FULLTEXT
(c) 2004 WIPO/Univentio. All rts. reserv.

00336757 **Image available**

COMPACT GOLF DRIVING RANGE NET

SYSTEME DE FILET COMPACT POUR CHAMP D'ENTRAINEMENT DE GOLF

Patent Applicant/Assignee:

KEHOE Robert P,

Inventor(s):

KEHOE Robert P,

Patent and Priority Information (Country, Number, Date):

Patent: WO 9619269 A1 19960627

Application: WO 95US16538 19951219 (PCT/WO US9516538)

Priority Application: US 94359411 19941220

Designated States: CA DE GB JP

Publication Language: English

Fulltext Word Count: 5145

COMPACT GOLF DRIVING RANGE NET

SYSTEME DE FILET COMPACT POUR CHAMP D'ENTRAINEMENT DE GOLF

Main International Patent Class: A63B-069/36

Fulltext Availability:

Detailed Description

Claims

English Abstract

A compact **golf** ball **driving** **range** net apparatus has a rigid frame with a substantially fabric ramp (14) having a lower...

...has a longitudinal opening (10) adjoining the ramp trailing edge for receiving a ball thereinto. **Golf** balls hit from an adjacent teeing area (82) impact the ramp, and are guided upward...

...the interior of the ball receiving member a number of times under observation of the **golfer**. The path of the rotating ball indicates the manner in which it was hit.

French Abstract

Systeme de filet compact pour champ d'entrainement de **golf** qui est constitue d'un cadre rigide et d'une rampe (14) essentiellement en tissu ...

...bord arriere de la rampe, qui est destinee a recevoir une balle. Les balles de **golf** frappees a partir d'un tertre de depart adjacent (82) viennent percuter la rampe, puis...

...l'element concu pour accueillir des balles en decrivant plusieurs tours sous le regard du **golfeur**. La trajectoire de la balle en rotation fournit des indications sur la facon dont la...

Detailed Description

COMPACT GOLF DRIVING RANGE NET

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates generally to compact **golf**

driving **range** nets, and more particularly to a compact

driving **range** net which allows the **golfer** several seconds of direct visual feedback on the basic flight characteristics of the **golf** ball in addition to stopping the **golf** ball safely.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIOR ART

Prior art **golf driving range** nets are primarily directed toward nets which safely stop **golf** balls hit in practice after a very short flight. This has generally been done by having the **golf** ball expend the majority of its energy impacting one or more layers of vertically suspended...

...knowledge of the basic flight characteristics are, for the most part, lost. Even if a **golfer** hits a circular shaped target suspended in front of a vertically hung net, there is no feedback to the **golfer** that would indicate if the shot was heading left or right of the intended line...

...is lost. The present invention provides an extended period of direct visual observation of the **golf** ball after impact.

Hitting actual **golf** balls in a practice session and studying the resultant flight of the ball is essential for learning to develop a sound **golf** swing and playing the game of **golf** well. It is simply unrealistic to believe that a **golfer** would be able to develop a sound **golf** swing by swinging only a weighted training club; or only a "hinged" **golf** club; or only a device that trains the **golfer** to swing a **golf** club on the proper swing plane. Most importantly, it is unrealistic to believe that a **golfer** can develop a good swing by only hitting into a net that provides little feedback...

...typically terminated into an elastic net, There is simply no substitute for hitting real **golf** balls and being able to observe their basic flight characteristics, i.e., did the shot...

...or right?

Unfortunately, hitting into a net that merely stops the ball safely deprives the **golfer** of important feedback about the struck shot. The present invention will allow the **golfer** to know if the ball was not only struck solidly, but more importantly, if the...

...real

practice while offering immediate feedback on the resultant shot.

The primary reason that a **golfer** goes to an outdoor **driving range** is to observe the true flight of the **golf** ball, unfortunately the **golfer** has no practical alternative if an outdoor **driving range** is unavailable. In addition, making a trip to a **driving range** can be time consuming and costly over the long term. Thus, the **golfer** could greatly benefit from a device that allows the following; the benefit of hitting real **golf** balls in as timely a manner as practical by having a practice net located at his/her residence; direct feedback on ball flight during the development of a sound **golf** swing; and realization of significant cost savings from using the same bucket of **golf** balls over and over again. Many inventors have created **golf** practice nets. None of these devices allow the **golfer** sufficient feedback to be able to know if the ball was struck well, not just solidly. The present art of compact nets has one common drawback, the flight of the **golf** ball is interrupted so very early by

impacting an arresting target area only a few...

...ball was struck, At impact the continuing character of the shot is terminated so the **golfer** does not learn if the shot was headed left or right of the intended line...

...these methods are very unnatural and may not offer the benefits of striking a real **golf** ball.

The prior art does teach various **golf** ball driving practice and training devices comprised of frame structure and receiving netting to serve as a means whereby **golfers** may conveniently and easily practice driving **golf** balls in a small area. The following U.S. patents disclose various types of devices which utilize flexible netting for safely arresting **golf** balls.

Day, U.S. Patent 3,420,528 discloses a ramp-like net which can guide a **golf** ball upwardly into a spiraling fabric capture device. Unfortunately, the **golfer** is left unaware of the resultant path of the **golf** ball because its flight was arrested immediately after being struck at the top of the...

...structure,
Balaz, U.S. patent 4,381,110 discloses a device that only stops the **golf** ball safely,
Tillery, U.S. Patent 4,556,219 discloses a typical cage type **driving range** that offers little feedback on the flight of the **golf** ball. The primary improvement with the Tillery device is that it safely arrests the **golf** ball and reduces dangerous rebounds from the floor.

Steen, U.S. Patent 4,703,931 is typical of many practice nets. While not solely intended for **golf**, it embodies basic principles of netting and rigid frame in a unique configuration. Again, a...

...feedback on the flight of the ball and is merely satisfied with safely arresting the **golf** ball,
Likewise, the following U.S. patents disclose various types of devices which utilize panels...a device that provides little flight information feedback and only arrests the flight of the **golf** ball safely.

Warlick, U.S. Patent 1,669,640 discloses a device providing a netting and frame assembly and a sloping impact net. However, the flight of the **golf** ball is terminated within a few meters of flight by a vertically suspended net, Megerle...

...providing self-supporting panel assembly, Again suffering from an early termination of the in-flight **golf** ball.

Shockley, U.S. Patent 3,895,809 discloses a device which allows less security...

...ball horizontally, This device could also produce a dangerous and uncontrolled ricochet thereby placing the **golfer** and those around him or her at risk.

Doyle, U,S, Patent 5,018,731 discloses an apparatus which only slightly improves the feedback on the flight of the **golf** ball by allowing the ball to travel farther before it impacts the target because of...

...size. It is not easily relocated nor located in the back yard of the typical **golfers** home, And it is designed for use with only a few **golf** clubs,
Bolanos, U,S, Patent 5,306,009 discloses a ramp-like net and a wrapped net-like barrier that can safely arrest a **golf** ball, While being a very clever development, this device does not provide feedback on the resultant flight of the ball. The **golfer** is still left wondering if the ball was headed left or right,
The present invention is distinguished over the prior art in general, and these patents in particular by a **golf** ball driving practice net apparatus having a flexible receiving apparatus adapted to quickly and safely absorb the kinetic energy of a driven **golf** ball and which has a cylindrical shot receiving member in which the ball rotates to...

...INVENTION

It is therefore a principal object of the present invention to provide a compact **golf driving range** net apparatus for either indoor or outdoor use by **golfers** in practicing **golf** shots, which is easily relocatable, and can be located at the **golfers** residence,
It is another object of the present invention to provide a **golf ball driving range** net apparatus having a flexible receiving apparatus adapted to quickly and safely absorb the kinetic energy of a driven **golf** ball while allowing the ball to rotate inside a capture device that offers extended direct visual feedback on the basic flight of the **golf** ball.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a **golf ball driving range** net apparatus which is self contained and of sturdy weather resistant construction, yet sufficiently mobile of the present invention is to provide a **golf ball driving range** net apparatus wherein the apparatus may be erected and installed in locations convenient to the **golfer** affording easy and quick practice or warmup prior to a round of **golf** ,

Another object of the present invention is to provide a compact **golf driving range** net apparatus that does not require sophisticated mechanical or electrical devices to operate,

A further object of the present invention is to provide a **golf ball driving range** net apparatus which does not require the **golfer** to pay a daily use fee or cost, and allows the **golfer** unlimited reuse of **golf** balls,

A still further object of this invention is to provide a compact **golf driving range** net apparatus that is easily manufactured at a reasonable cost,
Other objects of the invention...

...The above noted objects and other objects of the invention are accomplished by the present **golf** ball driving practice net apparatus having a flexible receiving apparatus adapted to quickly and safely absorb the kinetic energy of a

driven **golf** ball and which has a cylindrical shot receiving member in which the ball rotates to...

...BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig, 1 is a perspective view of the entire compact **golf driving range** net apparatus showing a representative **golfing** figure in a teeing area.

Fig. 2 is a cross sectional view of the entire compact **golf driving range** net taken along line 2-2 shown in Fig, 1,

Fig. 3 is an enlarged...

...the main beam,

Fig, 7 is a perspective view of a variation of the compact **driving range** net apparatus inside a much larger netting assembly to completely enclose the **golfer** and the apparatus.

Fig. 8 is a large scale cross section of the **golf** ball return feature.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to the drawings by numerals of reference, the entire compact **golf driving range** net apparatus is shown in Figs. 1 and 2, The three major components of the...

...shot receiver 12, In the erected configuration, the cylindrical shot receiver 12 will allow a **golf** ball to rotate and spiral under centrifugal force until its energy is spent (as described 10 and may be located in a yard of the **golfer** or assembled indoors or located at a **golf** facility in a permanent location, A teeing area 82 is positioned a distance in front of the net assembly (left side of the drawing in Fig, 2) from which **golf** balls will be driven.

The frame is constructed of horizontal tubing members 20 and 44...plurality of points to the bottom of the main beam 108 to assist high velocity **golf** balls from slightly bumping the bottom edge of the main beam 108 as the main...

...shot receiver 12 may employ a series of ball return openings 152 to deliver the **golf** ball 112 back to the **golfer** under gravity, A **golf** ball return launching ramp 150 lifts the **golf** ball 112 slightly above the ball return opening 152. The line of the **golf** ball's path 140 is indicated by dashed lines for clarity, When the forward velocity of the **golf** ball 112 is depleted, the force of gravity will return it to the bottom of...

...14 and subsequently roll back downward to the teeing area 82, The line of the **golf** ball's path 140 is illustrated for clarity. The ball return launching ramp 150 may...the shot receiver 12 and also contains a series of net openings 124 to allow **golf** balls to fall through on their way back to the teeing area 82 via the...

...the surroundings from mis-hit shots. The safety nets 18 are

shaped to allow the **golfer** to stand reasonably close to the device without hitting the side netting with the **golf** club.

Alternatively, Fig, 7 shows a modification of the compact **golf driving range** net wherein the side nets 18 are eliminated and the apparatus is located inside a...

...elements exposed to possible mis-hits.

OPERATION

As shown in Figs, 1 and 2, a **golfer** 80 would set up at the teeing area 82 and drive **golf** balls into the main impact net fabric ramp 14 along the aiming centerline 90 and observe the ball as it rotates inside the shot receiver 12, Since a plurality of **golf** clubs are intended to be used with this device, no specific target has been defined...

...fabric ramp 14, The ramp continues to redirect the initially horizontal velocity vector of the **golf** ball into a nearly vertical vector where it enters the shot receiver 12 through the...

...of the launching ramp assembly 32 (Fig, 4). The guide angle 116 assists high velocity **golf** balls from slightly bumping the bottom edge of the main beam 108 as the main impact net fabric ramp 14 slightly deflects, The launching ramp 150 lifts the **golf** ball 112 slightly above the ball return openings 152 (Fig, 8), The cylindrical shot receiver 12 will allow a **golf** ball to rotate and spiral under centrifugal force until its energy is spent, After striking the **golf** ball, the **golfer** is naturally facing the cylindrical shot receiver 12 and visually watches the path that the **golf** ball takes as it revolves inside of the shot receiver 12, As a high velocity **golf** ball enters the receiver 12, the centrifugal force on the ball keeps it pressed tightly...

...the inside of the shot receiver a plurality of times, Watching the track of the **golf** ball as it rotates inside the cylindrical receiver reveals the resultant shot, Rotation to the...

...shot, Rotation to the left indicates a pulled, draw or hooked shot.

The closer the **golf** ball stays to the centerline indicates the correctness of the particular **golf** shot, assuming the **golfer** was lined up square to the centerline, Finally, the more revolutions around the receiving cylinder...

...embody various other interior surfaces which may allow a longer observation time; i.e., the **golf** ball would revolve for a longer time as a result of a smoother interior surface, As shown in dashed line 140 in Fig, 8, when the forward velocity of the **golf** ball 112 is depleted the force of gravity will return it to the bottom of...

...in the safety netting 12

beneath the shot receiver 12.

Reading the rotations of the **golf** ball is made easier by gradations placed on the side of said shot receiving cylinder facing the **golfer**, In a short period of time, the **golfer** learns to watch the 'movement of the ball once it has entered the shot receiver, noting if it entered left or right of the centerline 90, Typical conventional **golf** nets merely stop a **golf** ball after allowing a **golf** ball flight of about 3 meters (8 to 10 feet) from the point of **golf** club impact to point of net impact. This is hardly enough to judge if the ball was struck well or judge if excessive side spin on the **golf** ball was present, The present compact **golf driving range** net allows the **golf** ball to travel approximately 30 meters (100 feet) by allowing it to rotate around a...

...the ball. This time of flight is approximately 50% of the flight time that a **golf** ball would have under normal **driving range** conditions.

The present compact **golf driving range** net allows the **golfer** to use a full swing and/or partial swing with most **golf** clubs. The number of **golf** clubs used is limited only by the height of the shot receiver above the teeing...

...wedge,
The present net assembly could be located adjacent to the first tee of a **golf** course and used if the normal **driving range** is unavailable, The **golfer** would use his/her own ball because it would be returned to them, This would allow several warm up shots just...

Claim

1 A compact **golf ball driving range** net apparatus comprising:
a frame of elongate support members releasably connected together, said frame supported...

...opening in
communication with said ramp upper trailing edge for receiving a ball thereinto; whereby
golf balls hit by a **golfer** from said teeing area will impact said ramp and be guided progressively upward thereby to...

...interior surface of
said ball receiving member a number of times under observation of said **golfer** and the path of said rotating **golf** ball being indicative of the manner in which it was hit.

2 A compact **golf ball driving range** net apparatus according to claim 1 wherein
said generally cylindrical ball receiving member is formed of semi-rigid open mesh.

3 A compact **golf ball driving range** net apparatus according to claim 1 wherein
said elongate support members comprise a plurality

of vertical, horizontal, and sloping rigid tubular members releasably connected together,

4 A compact **golf ball driving range** net apparatus according to claim 3 wherein said rigid tubular members are substantially covered by a cushioning material.

5o A compact **golf ball driving range** net apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising a plurality of footpad members releasably connected...

...surface of said frame for supporting said frame on said support surface,

6 A compact **golf ball driving range** net apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising anchoring means releasably connected between said frame and said support surface to prevent movement of said frame.

7 A compact **golf ball driving range** net apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising tensioning means connected between said ramp and said support surface for maintaining said ramp in the substantially tensioned state,
S. A compact **golf ball driving range** net apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising guide markings on said ramp visible to the **golfer** representing the desired path a **golf ball** would follow when properly hit by a **golf club**, the deviation of said rotating **golf ball** with respect to said markings representing the manner in which the said ball was hit by the face of the **golf club**, and the number of rotations inside said generally cylindrical ball receiving member representing the distance said ball would have traveled,

9 A compact **golf ball driving range** net apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising netting enclosing the laterally opposed ends of said generally cylindrical ball receiving member.

10* A compact **golf ball driving range** net apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising safety netting supported on each side of said substantially fabric ramp and suspended beneath said ball receiving member to arrest mis-hit **golf balls**,

11 A compact **golf ball driving range** net apparatus according to claim 1 wherein one side of said generally cylindrical ball receiving...

...the tangential juncture to define an opposed side of said longitudinal opening.

12 A compact **golf ball driving range** net apparatus according to claim 11 further comprising an elongate support beam releasably connected

generally...

...junction with said ball receiving member
generally perpendicular to said support surface,

13 A compact **golf ball driving range** net apparatus
according to claim 12 further comprising
an elongate guide member connected with said...

...vertical surface and positioned behind
said ramp trailing edge to assist in preventing high velocity
golf balls from bumping a bottom edge of said support beam
should the velocity cause flexure of said substantially
fabric ramp.
, A compact **golf ball driving range** net apparatus
according to claim 11 further comprising
an elongate shaped beam connected to an...

...and having a
curved surface supporting the terminal end of said interior
surface to direct **golf** balls across said longitudinal opening
as they travel along the curved interior surface of said ball
receiving member.

15 A compact **golf ball driving range** net apparatus
according to claim 11 further comprising
ball return openings in a lowermost portion of
said inwardly curved interior surface of said ball receiving
member for allowing **golf** balls with very low velocities to
exit said ball receiving member under the force of gravity,

16 A compact **golf ball driving range** net apparatus
according to claim 15 further comprising
an angled surface extending longitudinally along
said...

...ball receiving member and having a raised end
adjacent said ball return openings to direct **golf** balls
across said ball return openings as they travel along the
curved interior surface of said ball receiving member.

17 A compact **golf ball driving range** net apparatus
according to claim 15 further comprising
an elongate ball return member connected to...

...member and having openings therethrough in alignment with
said ball return openings through which said **golf** balls with
very low velocities pass when exiting said ball receiving
member under the force...

7/3,K/8 (Item 8 from file: 349)
DIALOG(R)File 349:PCT FULLTEXT
(c) 2004 WIPO/Univentio. All rts. reserv.

00213033 **Image available**

IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO GOLF PUTTING SIMULATORS
AMELIORATIONS AUX SIMULATEURS DE PUTTING DE GOLF

Patent Applicant/Assignee:

MARTIN Nicola Jane,

Inventor(s):

MARTIN Nicola Jane,

Patent and Priority Information (Country, Number, Date):

Patent: WO 9210248 A1 19920625

Application: WO 91GB2187 19911210 (PCT/WO GB9102187)

Priority Application: GB 9027113 19901213

Designated States: AT AU BE CA CH DE DK ES FR GB GR IT JP KR LU MC NL SE US

Publication Language: English

Fulltext Word Count: 4824

IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO GOLF PUTTING SIMULATORS
AMELIORATIONS AUX SIMULATEURS DE PUTTING DE GOLF

Main International Patent Class: A63B-069/36

Fulltext Availability:

Detailed Description

Claims

English Abstract

A **golf** putting simulator (1) includes selection means (32) for selecting the speed of the putting green...

...for measuring the speed of the ball and for calculating the distance travelled by the **golf** ball from a predetermined position on the surface towards the target, distance setting means (34...

French Abstract

Simulateur de putting de **golf** (1) comprenant un systeme de selection (32) permettant de choisir la vitesse du la surface...

...la vitesse de la balle et a calculer la distance parcourue par la balle de **golf** depuis une position predeterminee sur la surface en direction de la cible, un systeme de...

Detailed Description

IMPROV04ENTS IN OR RELATING TO **GOLF** PUTTING SIMULATORS

This invention concerns improvements in or relating to **golf** putting simulators.

In particular, the invention has reference to an electronic **golf** putting simulator which can be used for training, practice or competitive purposes.

It is already well known for **golfers** to practice their putting away from the green on a specially designed, usually synthetic, surface...

...thereby reducing the challenge value and accordingly the efficacy of the activity in improving the **golfer** 's putting ability.

Electronic- **golf** putting simulators have been proposed for

simulating the performance of **golfers** by calculating the speed of the ball and its direction, thus enabling the **golfer** to monitor and measure the likely accuracy of the putt in reaching the target hole...

...the United States of America and called a Stimpmeter (Trade Mark) produced by the US **Golf** Association which in association with the Royal and Ancient of St Andrews Scotland interprets **golfing** rules. Essentially, the device consists of a grooved bar provided with a notch for initially engaging a **golf** ball. Upon elevation of one end of the bar the ball will disengage the notch...

...the ground beneath the lower end. Briefly, by measuring distances rolled by a number of **golf** balls over the ground, which will constitute the putting green, and averaging those distances, a...

...to generate various data which will determine the speed of the greens on a particular **golf** course and categorise those greens in general terms such as fast, medium-fast, medium, medium-slow, or slow. The **golfer** can, therefore, with the benefit of this information, vary his putting accordingly.
An object of the present invention is to provide an improved electronic **golf** putting simulator which allows a more accurate assessment of putting performance.

According to the invention an electronic **golf** putting simulator includes an artificial putting green surface providing a path over which in use a **golf** ball will be caused to travel by a user of the simulator, a visual display the distance travelled by the **golf** ball from a predetermined position on the surface towards the target, distance setting means for...

...performance.

Conveniently, means may also be provided for detecting the directional path taken by the **golf** ball and for giving via the indicator means a visual indication thereof.

The visual display...

...to give guidance to the user. The panel may also be aestheticised with static pictorial **golfing** scenes. In an alternative form of visual display, a sequentially illuminative panel may be provided...

...the putt to illuminate the panel progressively to illustrate the path taken by the putted **golf** ball towards the target, In a further alternative embodiment, the visual display may comprise a...

...example by the use of a Stimpmeter (Trade Mark) as advocated by the United States **Golf** Association. **Ranges** of speed may correspond to regular membership play or tournament play and the simulator may...

...comprise two conventional detectors spaced apart a known distance along the intended path of the **golf** ball, the time taken from one detector to the next being measured in milliseconds and means following despatch of the **golf** ball along its path towards the target, operation of the simulator, which will preferably electrically...

...provided with a ball return mechanism which is adapted to return the or each spent **golf** ball to the vicinity of the predetermined position on the putting green surface for further...

...fee is disbursed and reinitiation of the simulator commenced, Alternatively, the user may use his **own golf balls** in which case, they are retrievable.

In practice, the user will either initiate operation by...

...payment, and will then select the green speed and the distance setting before addressing the **golf** ball on the predetermined position on the putting green surface. The user will then strike...

...user of the unexpired time left for play, By way of example only, embodiments of **golf** putting simulator according to the invention are described below with reference to the accompanying drawings...to Figures I to 5 of the drawings, there is shown generally at 1 a **golf** putting simulator including a base 2 on which is located-centrally and longitudinally thereof an...

...4 which is provided with a start 'g position 5 from which in use a **golf** ball (not shown) is to be despatched, on each side of the surface is a...

...parallel with each margin of the surface 4 to define generally a path for the **golf** ball to follow, Two sensors 10 are set in at least one of the runners...

...the form of detectors and are adapted in use to detect the passage of the **golf** ball and the time taken for the ball to travel the distance from one sensor...

...rear of the base 2 where it terminates adjacent an opening 12 through which a **golf** ball will in use travel following a putt by a user. To the rear of...

...further sensors 14 is located and arranged to detect the directional path of the travelling **golf** ball. A ball arresting and return arrangement is shown diagrammatically at 16 for decelerating and...the computer involves two steps, namely the actual measurement of the distance travelled by a **golf** ball on a known surface, and the computer calculation of that result to generate appropriate...and includes a representation of the target bounded on both sides by illustrations of different **golfing** scenes to aestheticise the visual impact of the

simulator. The control panel 20 is disposed...

...user activates the simulator and selects the green speed and the target distancer addresses the **golf** ball on its position on the green surface, and strikes the ball.

The simulator automatically...

...a start position centrally of the front of the base approximately as shown by the **golf** ball 68, On each side of the start position is a mat 70 for right...
...of the start position each housing sensors (not shown) for detecting the passage of a **golf** ball and the time taken for the ball to travel the distance from one sensor...

...sensors (not shown) which are adapted to sense in -use the line of the struck **golf** ball.

The member 76 has an upwardly inclined ramp 78 of a small angular disposition...

Claim

1 An electronic **golf** putting simulator includes an artificial putting green surface providing a path over which in use a **golf** ball will be caused to travel by a user of the simulator, characterised by a...

...for measuring the speed of the ball and for calculating the distance travelled by the **golf** ball from a predetermined position on the surface towards the target, distance setting means for...

...the position of the target, and indicator means for indicating putting performance.

2 An electronic **golf** putting simulator according to Claim 1 characterised in that means are provided for detecting the directional path taken by the **golf** ball and for giving a visual indication thereof,

3 An electronic **golf** putting simulator according to Claim 1 or 2 characterised in that the visual display is constituted by a panel incorporating the representation of the target,

4 An electronic **golf** putting simulator according to Claim 3 characterised in that the target is illustrated by a flag...

...to the target appropriately marked thereon to give guidance to the user,
5. An electronic **golf** putting simulator according to Claim 3 or 4 characterised in that in which the panel is aestheticised.

6 An electronic **golf** putting simulator according to Claim 1 or 2 characterised in that the visual display includes...

...the putt to illuminate the panel progressively to illustrate the path taken by the putt **golf** ball towards the target.

7 An electronic **golf** putting simulator according to Claim 1 or 2 characterised in that the visual display comprises...

...of the unit
or monitor upon actuation of the distance Betting means,

8 An electronic **golf** putting simulator according to any one of the preceding claims and characterised by an integral...

...by the putt and the path taken by the ball
following impact.

9 An electronic **golf** -putting simulator according to claim 8 characterised in that the selection means for selecting the...

...within the
computer and are calibrated to provide a range of speeds.

10 An electronic **golf** putting simulator according to Claim 9 characterised in that in which the range of speeds electronic **golf** putting simulator according to any one of the preceding claims characterised in that the sensor...

...comprises two conventional detectors spaced
apart a known distance along the intended path of the **golf** ball, the time taken from one detector to the next being in use measured and the speed calculated therefrom.

12 An electronic **golf** putting simulator according to any one of the preceding claims and characterised by a ball return

7
mechanism which is adapted to return the or each spent **golf** ball to the vicinity of the predetermined position on the putting green surface for further use.

13 An electronic **golf** putting simulator according to any one of the preceding claims characterised in that operation of the simulator is initiated by a simple on/off activation element.

14 An electronic **golf** putting simulator according to any one of the preceding claims 1 to 12 characterised in...

...operation of the simulator is initiated by a suitable payment
10 mechanism.

15 An electronic **golf** putting simulator according to Claim 14 characterised in -that the payment mechanism is adapted to accept currency,

16 An electronic **golf** -putting simulator according to Claim 14
15 characterised in -that the payment mechanism is a...

Set	Items	Description
S1	78016	GOLF???
S2	8489	(GOLF??? OR PRACTIS??? OR PRACTIC??? OR DRIVE? ? OR DRIVING OR TEESHOT OR TEE()SHOT) (3N)RANGE? ?
S3	57	(PERSONAL OR OWN) (2N) (BALL? ? OR GOLFBALL? ? OR GOLF???) (B- ALL? ?)
S4	5	S1:S2 AND S3
S5	5	RD (unique items)
? show files		
File	94:	JICST-EPlus 1985-2004/Feb W1 (c)2004 Japan Science and Tech Corp(JST)
File	95:	TEME-Technology & Management 1989-2004/Jan W4 (c) 2004 FIZ TECHNIK
File	99:	Wilson Appl. Sci & Tech Abs 1983-2004/Jan (c) 2004 The HW Wilson Co.
File	35:	Dissertation Abs Online 1861-2004/Jan (c) 2004 ProQuest Info&Learning
File	111:	TGG Natl.Newspaper Index(SM) 1979-2004/Feb 11 (c) 2004 The Gale Group
File	583:	Gale Group Globalbase(TM) 1986-2002/Dec 13 (c) 2002 The Gale Group
File	6:	NTIS 1964-2004/Feb W2 (c) 2004 NTIS, Intl Cpyrght All Rights Res
File	8:	Ei Compendex(R) 1970-2004/Feb W1 (c) 2004 Elsevier Eng. Info. Inc.
File	34:	SciSearch(R) Cited Ref Sci 1990-2004/Feb W2 (c) 2004 Inst for Sci Info
File	434:	SciSearch(R) Cited Ref Sci 1974-1989/Dec (c) 1998 Inst for Sci Info
File	65:	Inside Conferences 1993-2004/Feb W2 (c) 2004 BLDSC all rts. reserv.
File	473:	FINANCIAL TIMES ABSTRACTS 1998-2001/APR 02 (c) 2001 THE NEW YORK TIMES
File	474:	New York Times Abs 1969-2004/Feb 12 (c) 2004 The New York Times
File	475:	Wall Street Journal Abs 1973-2004/Feb 12 (c) 2004 The New York Times
File	481:	DELPHEs Eur Bus 95-2004/Feb W1 (c) 2004 ACFCI & Chambre CommInd Paris
File	48:	SPORTDiscus 1962-2004/Jan (c) 2004 Sport Information Resource Centre
File	50:	CAB Abstracts 1972-2004/Jan (c) 2004 CAB International

5/3,K/1 (Item 1 from file: 111)
DIALOG(R)File 111:TGG Natl.Newspaper Index(SM)
(c) 2004 The Gale Group. All rts. reserv.

07902421 Supplier Number: 94375947
**Your Personal Collection Of Golf Ball Markers Can Embellish A
Bracelet For The Golf Widow.**
PR Newswire, NYFNSA2219112002
Nov 19, 2002
LANGUAGE: English RECORD TYPE: Citation

**Your Personal Collection Of Golf Ball Markers Can Embellish A
Bracelet For The Golf Widow.**

5/3,K/2 (Item 1 from file: 34)
DIALOG(R)File 34:SciSearch(R) Cited Ref Sci
(c) 2004 Inst for Sci Info. All rts. reserv.

10482036 Genuine Article#: 530YP No. References: 0
Title: Editor's comments
Author(s): Weber R
Journal: MIS QUARTERLY, 2002, V26, N1 (MAR), PIII-VIII
ISSN: 0276-7783 Publication date: 20020300
Publisher: SOC INFORM MANAGE-MIS RES CENT, UNIV MINNESOTA-SCH MANAGEMENT
271 19TH AVE SOUTH, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55455 USA
Language: English Document Type: EDITORIAL MATERIAL (ABSTRACT AVAILABLE
)

...Abstract: took cousin Ralph with me, and every day or two we played a
round of golf on the nearby public course. We both like to walk in
the rough as we go from shot to shot-looking for **golf balls**
(usually our **own**). We found quite a number, including some of those
phosphorescent ones. At the end of the week, there were a dozen shiny
and nearly unblemished orange and yellow **golf balls** in the egg
compartment in the refrigerator-a pleasant surprise for any **golfer** or
kid who showed up the next week.

5/3,K/3 (Item 1 from file: 475)
DIALOG(R)File 475:Wall Street Journal Abs
(c) 2004 The New York Times. All rts. reserv.

07014706
REVIEW & OUTLOOK: HOOKING A TORT
Wall Street Journal, Col. 1, Pg. 12, Sec. A
Thursday July 20 1995

ABSTRACT:

Asides editorial notes recent case in which the Maine Supreme Court
held that a **golfer** who hit herself in the face with her **own ball** can
collect damages from the course

DESCRIPTORS: EDITORIALS; SUITS AND LITIGATION; **GOLF**

5/3,K/4 (Item 1 from file: 48)
DIALOG(R)File 48:SPORTDiscus
(c) 2004 Sport Information Resource Centre. All rts. reserv.

02180671 SPORT RECORD NUMBER: S-819543

Balancing act: missing putts? It could be the ball you use.

Firkins, G.

Golf world, v43, n4 , p114-115

Apr 2002

ABSTRACT: Discusses controversies surrounding ball manufacturer Wilson's claim on ball imbalance; steps for testing your own golf balls ' balance are described with photos.

DESCRIPTORS: GOLF ;

5/3,K/5 (Item 2 from file: 48)

DIALOG(R)File 48:SPORTDiscus

(c) 2004 Sport Information Resource Centre. All rts. reserv.

02169902 SPORT RECORD NUMBER: S-811881

First-tee secret: golf 's greatest player answers your questions.

Nicklaus, J.; Morrice, P.

Golf magazine, v44, n3 , p96

Mar 2002

First-tee secret: golf 's greatest player answers your questions.

...ABSTRACT: first tee off and ball - eye contact for putting, and reveals a superstition of his own involving ball markers.

DESCRIPTORS: GOLF ;

Set	Items	Description
S1	725430	GOLF???
S2	57432	(GOLF??? OR PRACTIS??? OR PRACTIC??? OR DRIVE? ? OR DRIVING OR TEESHOT OR TEE()SHOT) (3N)RANGE? ?
S3	6364	(PERSONAL OR OWN) (2N) (BALL? ? OR GOLFBALL? ? OR GOLF???())B- ALL? ?)
S4	67	S1 AND S2 AND S3
S5	56	S4 AND PY<2002
S6	34	RD (unique items)
? show files		
File 9:	Business & Industry(R) Jul/1994-2004/Feb 12 (c) 2004 Resp. DB Svcs.	
File 16:	Gale Group PROMT(R) 1990-2004/Feb 13 (c) 2004 The Gale Group	
File 47:	Gale Group Magazine DB(TM) 1959-2004/Feb 12 (c) 2004 The Gale group	
File 80:	TGG Aerospace/Def.Mkts(R) 1986-2004/Feb 13 (c) 2004 The Gale Group	
File 141:	Readers Guide 1983-2004/Jan (c) 2004 The HW Wilson Co	
File 148:	Gale Group Trade & Industry DB 1976-2004/Feb 13 (c)2004 The Gale Group	
File 160:	Gale Group PROMT(R) 1972-1989 (c) 1999 The Gale Group	
File 482:	Newsweek 2000-2004/Feb 11 (c) 2004 Newsweek, Inc.	
File 621:	Gale Group New Prod.Annou.(R) 1985-2004/Feb 13 (c) 2004 The Gale Group	
File 484:	Periodical Abs Plustext 1986-2004/Feb W3 (c) 2004 ProQuest	
File 635:	Business Dateline(R) 1985-2004/Feb 12 (c) 2004 ProQuest Info&Learning	
File 636:	Gale Group Newsletter DB(TM) 1987-2004/Feb 13 (c) 2004 The Gale Group	
File 646:	Consumer Reports 1982-2004/Jan (c) 2004 Consumer Union	
File 609:	Bridge World Markets 2000-2001/Oct 01 (c) 2001 Bridge	
File 649:	Gale Group Newswire ASAP(TM) 2004/Feb 02 (c) 2004 The Gale Group	
File 610:	Business Wire 1999-2004/Feb 13 (c) 2004 Business Wire.	
File 613:	PR Newswire 1999-2004/Feb 13 (c) 2004 PR Newswire Association Inc	
File 809:	Bridge World Markets News 1989-1999/Dec 31 (c) 1999 Bridge	
File 810:	Business Wire 1986-1999/Feb 28 (c) 1999 Business Wire	
File 813:	PR Newswire 1987-1999/Apr 30 (c) 1999 PR Newswire Association Inc	
File 20:	Dialog Global Reporter 1997-2004/Feb 13 (c) 2004 The Dialog Corp.	
File 570:	Gale Group MARS(R) 1984-2004/Feb 13 (c) 2004 The Gale Group	
File 397:	Las Vegas Review-Journal 1997-2004/Feb 12 (c) 2004 Las Vegas R-J	
?		

6/3,K/23 (Item 4 from file: 148)
DIALOG(R)File 148:Gale Group Trade & Industry DB
(c)2004 The Gale Group. All rts. reserv.

05216672 SUPPLIER NUMBER: 10938061 (USE FORMAT 7 OR 9 FOR FULL TEXT)
Creative Athletic tees up golf market. (Creative Athletic Products &
Services Inc. introduces golf training equipment) (company profile)
Chesser, John
Business Record (Des Moines), v87, n20, p2(2)
May 20, 1991
DOCUMENT TYPE: company profile ISSN: 0746-410X LANGUAGE: ENGLISH
RECORD TYPE: FULLTEXT
WORD COUNT: 680 LINE COUNT: 00050

Creative Athletic tees up golf market. (Creative Athletic Products &
Services Inc. introduces golf training equipment) (company profile)

TEXT:

CREATIVE ATHLETIC tees up golf market
... amusement games.

According to CAPS President Bob Wright, the company's recent expansion into the golf market, for example, is not due to an elaborate strategic plan but the result of a remark made by a golfer who had seen a CAPS pitching cage.

"A golf pro told us back in '89 that we should build something similar for golfers," Wright said. "We didn't pay much attention until last year, when we decided to build a prototype."

CAPS enlisted the help of professional golf instructors to design the Quad, a structure similar to a batting cage, but wider and taller, with space for four golfers. A coin-operated machine dispenses balls, which are sucked back into the dispenser through a...

...foreseen the interest of the amusement-park market," he said. "We were trying to get golf pros interested in it, but, by a ratio of 5-to-1, the people interested..."

...amusement park is open from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m.," he said. "A golf course might use it for a few hours in the afternoon. The utilization is much greater at an amusement park."

CAPS had estimated that a golf course could generate enough profit from the Quad to pay for the \$20,000 device...

...person version of the Quad called the Backyard Range (\$2,000) and a modular enclosed driving range called the Long Ball, which can be built from 40 to 120 feet long.

"We built the Long Ball so the golfer can see the flight of the ball," he said. "In other types of cages, you...
...or a slice."

The Long Ball is designed to offer a cheaper alternative to tradition driving ranges, which are becoming prohibitively expensive as the price of land rises, Wright said. The Long Ball with automatic ball return will cost \$15,000. Opting to retrieve your own golf balls will save you \$7,000.

Making products that cost four or five figures is quite...

...to a niche market."

Schechter and Wright see a vast market for CAPS's new golf products. "Only 30 percent of golf courses have driving ranges," he said. In addition to golf courses, Schechter sees hotels, corporate health clubs, apartment buildings and direct-mail specialty catalogs as...

...a country club in Kalona, Iowa. Wright hopes to sell \$3.5 million worth of **golf** equipment this year, he said.

And the U.S. market is only the beginning. "In Japan there are 60 million **golfers** , but only 2 million are able to play on **golf**

PHOTO : Creative Athletic's one-person backyard range.

DESCRIPTORS: **Golf** equipment industry...

... **Golfers** --

19910520

6/3,K/24 (Item 1 from file: 635)
DIALOG(R)File 635:Business Dateline(R)
(c) 2004 ProQuest Info&Learning. All rts. reserv.

0975565 99-38364

The virtual golf course

Palmer, Joel

Business Record-Des Moines IA (Des Moines, IA, US), V94 N33 p15

PUBL DATE: 980817

WORD COUNT: 826

DATELINE: IA, US, Midwest

The virtual golf course

TEXT:

...the Masters if given the chance.

Both are enjoying a crisp evening at West Grand **Golf** after enduring another stressful day at Re/Max. Each has a different reason for being there.

Unlike many **golfers**, who suffer cardiac arrest with every shank or hook, Brezina actually wants to relieve stress...
...mood to play."

Thomas, on the other hand, was trying to prepare for a company **golf** tournament the next day. "I'm out here working on little segments of my game...

...partners represent the current state of the old Scottish pastime. With the popularity of professional **golf** booming, more and more are taking up the sport. Regulars are taking their game more...

...more time practicing now than they do playing," says Wayne McKinney, owner of West Grand **Golf**. "Their scores are improving dramatically and they're enjoying the game more."

Golfers nowadays have to get as much out of practice sessions as possible. For many, that...

...just hitting a pail of 100 balls in an open field. And practicing on a **golf** course is out of the question.

"You can't practice on the **golf** course because of the fast play and the volume of people out there," says McKinney...
...and move on."

That's why McKinney and his family, with the assistance of a **practice range** designer, developed a "virtual **golf** course" two years ago near Clearwater Beach in West Des Moines.

Players can work on...

...the workaholic executive with its stadium lighting, allowing practice sessions until 10 p.m.

Longview **Golf** Centre in Urbandale has taken convenience to a new level in Iowa. Three years ago...

...says owner Sue Frampton.

She says her center has benefitted from a new trend in **golf**. It used to be, **golfers** would play from April to September, then put the clubs in the garage for the...

...shop don't indicate a slowdown anytime soon. Frampton says the hottest selling item are **golf** clubs for small children.

When Furman Conard took up go there weren't any specialized...

...playing this game about 40 years ago," he says, "if you wanted to hit some **golf** balls, you had to have them. You would go out to an empty field and hit your **own balls** and then shag them."

Five years ago, Conard opened Best Shot **Golf** Center in Johnston. He employs a gimmick he picked up at a **practice range** in the south.

Players take nine shots at each of four giant targets placed at...

...come up with a score that is similar to if you played 18 holes of **golf**."

Conard says his **range** offers linksters a more intense practice session. "You have a purpose with each swing. More often than not, people have a different mental approach on the **driving range** than when they play.

"We get people all the time asking, 'Why do I hit the ball so well at the **driving range** and then lousy on the **golf** course?' It's because you're hitting with a care-free attitude. There's no...

DESCRIPTORS: **Golf** ;

6/3,K/26 (Item 3 from file: 635)
DIALOG(R)File 635:Business Dateline(R)
(c) 2004 ProQuest Info&Learning. All rts. reserv.

0153547 90-36669

Ball-O-Matic Becomes a Big Hit

Walsh, Ami

The Detroit News (Detroit, MI, US), V116 N333 sF p3

PUBL DATE: 900723

WORD COUNT: 551

DATELINE: Niles, MI, US

TEXT:

From the famed Pebble Beach **golf** course in California to obscure establishments in Korea, West Germany and Finland, Lee Hope's business is making a big hit.

Hope, a 40-year-old **golf** enthusiast, is president of Ball-O-Matic. The Niles, Mich.-based company sells **golf** course accessories, including ball dispensing and washing machines, sand trap rakes, divot fixing tools, outdoor furniture and bag racks.

"We don't sell directly to **golfers** ," says Hope. "Our customers are PGA pros, course superintendents and club managers."

Hope caters to a large and growing market. There are 13,738 **golf** courses in the United States, including 727 in Michigan. Most offer **driving ranges** and many **own ball** dispensing machines. If they don't, Hope believes they soon will.

"I think as the...

...one of these units," says Hope. "The machine replaces individuals that would be handing out **golf** balls in the pro shop or out on the range. The machine does the same...

...our company to purchase them."

Business aside, Hope had an inherent interest in company.

"Playing **golf** ," he admits, "is a big hobby of mine."

Ball-O-Matic is perhaps most widely...

...that is unbreakable. It's a product that can endure the abuse that an average **golfer** will show when he's in a trap."

Since he took over the business late...

...in the past two years," says Hope. "A lot of that growth is just the **golf** industry. The weak American dollar in the international market has also helped us. The sporting...

...ll see most of our growth in the future."

Ball-O-Matic

* Founded: 1962

* Product: **Golf** course accessories,
including ball dispensing machines,
outdoor furniture and sand rakes.

* President: Lee Hope

* Employees...

6/3,K/30 (Item 3 from file: 20)
DIALOG(R)File 20:Dialog Global Reporter
(c) 2004 The Dialog Corp. All rts. reserv.

12542206 (USE FORMAT 7 OR 9 FOR FULLTEXT)

They still take aim at the death strip but these days it's from the tee:

Capital letters

JOHN HOOPER IN BERLIN

GUARDIAN

August 19, 2000

JOURNAL CODE: FGDN LANGUAGE: English RECORD TYPE: FULLTEXT

WORD COUNT: 522

(USE FORMAT 7 OR 9 FOR FULLTEXT)

... and heaving them across the road to the open space - now east Berlin's only **golf** course.

'There's no green fee,' said the enthusiastic young woman in the shop on the corner which hires out equipment. 'So if you turn up with your own clubs and **balls**, it's free.'

The **Golf** -Zentrum Mitte is a practice ground. It has a **driving range**, a putting green, a chipping green and a couple of bunkers. It has its own...

...100,000 square metres of undulating, lovingly tended grass.

Before the fall of the Wall, **golf** was unthinkable in the east and virtually unplayable in the west. Space was at a...

... for and by Germans was out in suburban Wannsee, and it was kept hyper-exclusive.

Golf has yet to catch on among easterners, but it has undergone an explosion in popularity...

...Today, there are 16 courses in and around Berlin. Most of the players at the **Golf** -Zentrum Mitte last week were from the west. Martin Neumann, an internet designer who now lives in the east, had come along with some friends.

'We bought him a **golf** club and a couple of lessons,' he said, gesturing towards one of his party. 'It...

...was sinking behind the smokestack as a covered buggy trundled to and fro across the **driving range** scooping up the balls. Behind us, a line of **golfers** aimed drives towards what was once the 'death strip'. The strip, just a few hundred...

...aim at - those desperate enough to try to flee to the west.

One of the **golfers** was instructing a friend.

'No. Not like that,' he was saying. 'Just try to keep...

washingtonpost.com

The Washington Post

News Web by Google

 go

Top 20 Most E-mailed Articles



Weekly Schedule

Message Boards

Transcripts

Video Archive

Discussion Areas

Politics

Nation

World

Metro

Business

Washtech

Sports

Style

Entertainment

Travel

Health

Home & Garden

Post Magazine

Food & Wine

Books & Reading

washingtonpost.com Archives History as it really happened.

washingtonpost

Got Plans?

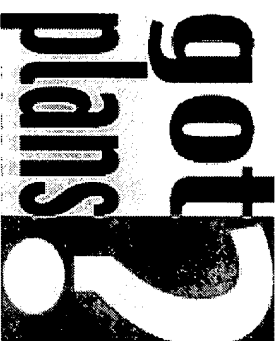
With the Entertainment Guide Staff

washingtonpost.com

Thursday, July 19, 2001; 1 p.m. EST

Every Thursday at 1 p.m. EST, washingtonpost.com's Entertainment Guide experts share their best bets for local flavor, great dates and family fun. Got plans? Great. Need plans? Just ask. We've got the skinny on the bars and clubs, concerts, kitchens, theaters and special events that keep life interesting. We're going out gurus, and we're at your service.

Of course, we're happy to answer questions about local entertainment, but we need to hear from you, too. Introduce us to the coolest DJ or the fastest bartender you've encountered. Sound off on the week's best concert or the city's best burger. Tell us about the best place to amuse little kids or a big art fan. Together we can plan fun ways to spend weekdays, weekends, dates and holidays. The pleasure is ours, and yours.



Got Plans?

- [Entertainment Guide](#)
- [Got Plans? archive](#)
- [Best Bets](#)
- [Movies](#)
- [Music](#)
- [Restaurants](#)
- [Nightlife](#)
- [Museums/Galleries](#)
- [Theater/Dance](#)
- [Love Life](#)
- [In Store](#)
- [Outdoors/Fitness](#)
- [Talk: Entertainment message boards](#)
- [Live Online Transcripts](#)
- [mywashingtonpost.com](#) -- customized news, traffic, weather and more

[Viewpoint](#)

[WashingtonJobs](#)

Each week a different guru will act as host or hostess, but the entire staff is at your service. If you're looking for more ideas, see the [Entertainment Guide](#).

[About Live Online](#)

Editor's Note: Washingtonpost.com moderators retain editorial control over Live Online discussions and choose the most relevant questions for guests and hosts; guests and hosts can decline to answer questions.

[About The Site](#)

[Contact Us](#)

* * *

[For Advertisers](#)

The Going Out Gurus: Afternoon friends, glad to have you back. By now you know how we play this game: Fire away with your questions and we'll answer as many as possible. As much as we love to dish the best places and events for dates, family outings and general who-ha, we can take it too. Have another suggestion? The hotter the tip, the better. Chime right in.

At the ready, as ever are Alexa (Restaurants), Maura (Museums), Joe (Music), Fritz (Nightlife), Rhome (Freshness), Anne (All-Seeing, All-Knowing, All Eventsicologist), Jen (Best Bets) and Stacy (Lovelife). I'm your host, Kate. This week, our special guest stars are Ben (as the loveable well-travelled uncle) and young Rob (Going Out Guru: Next Generation).

And for all the smartypants out there: Which is the only state without an avenue named for it in the District?

Alright, who wants to go first?

Clarendon, Va.: My BF and I love going out and doing fun activities. Problem is we spend way too much money doing it. Can y'all suggest some weekend plans for us that involve not spending any money or little money. Also, do you know where there is a park/field where we can hit our own golf balls?

The Going Out Gurus: How lucky you are Clarendon that D.C. offers so many ways to entertain yourself for next to nothing-especially during the summer. Most of the museums are free of course and you can read our list of summer exhibit comings and goings. The Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage offers free concerts every night at 6:00 and the Fort Reno Concert Series has an impressive line-up of bands this summer. If you're still not happy with your relatively cheap weekend activities, head down to the Mall for Screen on the Green on Monday nights when you can view classic films for free. And if you're still not satisfied, take some tips from our "Dates for Less Than \$50" feature.

As far as practicing your swing, most driving ranges are happy to let you hit your own balls, just as long as you don't expect to get them back. Try Hains Point, Dulles Golf Center or Rocky Gorge. Anyone know of any random fields or parks where golfers are welcome?



GolfWeb

Library

Kermit Zarley on the Senior PGA Tour



GolfWeb is pleased to welcome Kermit Zarley as a Playing Editor. Kermit will be filing monthly reports during this, his sixth year on the Senior PGA Tour.

Playing a little, praying a little

*Friendswood, Texas
March 26, 1996*

Chances are, my name sounds familiar to you if you're into golf at all.

Back when I was playing the PGA Tour, Bob Hope once called me "the pro from the moon" on television during his golf tournament, and that got me a lot of attention. I have to admit that it was a pretty funny line, but there's a lot more to me than just an odd name. In writing these

columns, I hope to be able to tell you a little more about myself, that I am more than just an odd name.

I played the PGA Tour for about 20 years, and looking back, I'd have to say it was a positive experience. I didn't achieve everything I wanted to--winning a major championship was my big goal--but I did win three times and was a consistent money-winner. I enjoyed playing golf and think of it as a great experience.

At the same time, I've had some medical problems, mostly spinal and neck pains, that I think can be traced back to the way I swung the club. In fact, I've put a lot of thought into this, and I think my experience shows that if you're experiencing a lot of back pain and you play golf, it's possible that the pain can be alleviated by changing the way you swing the club. But I'll save that story for another day.

The closest I came to winning a major was the 1972 U.S. Open. I had a real chance at Pebble Beach in 1972, the tournament Jack Nicklaus ended up winning. In the final round, Jack was playing in the last group, behind me, and we were tied going into the seventh hole, the short par-3. I had about a 25-footer for birdie, and I three-putted, missing a very short putt. I also three-putted the next hole, from about 10 feet, and that was that. I ended up sixth.

I still think about that one. The U.S. Open was always my favorite tournament and that was the one I really wanted to win.



I didn't play much after 1980 and officially retired in 1982. I left the tour because I wanted to spend more time with my kids, Christine, Monica and Michael. I had lost my exemption and if I wanted to play the tour I would've had to have gone through qualifying school, which I chose not to do.

I played in the old TPS tour--which really was the predecessor to today's Nike Tour--in 1984 and 1985. But that tour fizzled out, and I just got interested in other things.

I guess you could call them hobbies, and most started back in the 1970s. I dabbled in club design. I started trying to design a better golf club, and I really think I was a little ahead of my time. I started working on this idea I had for a driver. I had this idea of using a hollowed-out club. I'd hollow out a wooden driver, and use wood screws and doweling to keep them from breaking. I actually used them on the Tour without telling anybody except my closest friends. I was convinced that hollowed-out clubs would someday take over golf. Guess I was right about that one. And I also worked with metal woods, too.

Another hobby was writing. I had always had a strong interest in Bible studies. And current events. In fact, in 1965, my good friend, Babe Hiskey and I had started the PGA Tour's Bible Study group which thrives today. I wrote a paper on the Second Coming of Christ. Then I just started thinking about other things I could write. So you might say I developed a new hobby: writing about the Bible.

When I quit the Tour, I had to decide what I wanted to do. Karsten Solheim, whom I had known for a long time, wanted me to work for his company designing clubs. But I decided that the strongest passion I had was writing Christian books. I didn't think I'd be able to make a living doing that, so I also got some golf schools going. At the same time, I started working with Jim Hiskey on a Christian ministry in golf.

So that's how I spent most of my time in the 1980s: writing books, working in the golf ministry, and conducting golf schools.



The Senior Tour kind of took me by surprise. I was really completely out of golf by the late 1980s. I thought golf was over for me. I was barely playing on the weekends, and truthfully, I didn't really miss it. I just had other things I liked to do. But in the late 1980s, I started thinking about playing golf again on the Senior PGA Tour after I saw that it was going to be a success. Really, no one expected that. And now, I'm really grateful to guys like Bob Goalby and Dan Sikes who started the Senior PGA Tour.

But once I got back into it and started playing again, I have to say that I have really enjoyed it. Like most pro players, I like the competitive aspect of playing golf for a living.

I've been pretty consistent since I started playing regularly in 1992. My first goal on the other tour was always to stay exempt, and I also wanted to win. I accomplished both on the Senior PGA Tour. I have always made the top 31 exempt list, and I won the Transamerica in 1994, which was my best year.

This year has been totally different for me. I hurt my neck last year, and that has forced me to approach things a little bit differently, though it is feeling better now. Nonetheless, I find myself struggling a little bit with my desire to play, a feeling I've had for the last couple of years. I intend to reduce my schedule this year, to about 25 events (I played 29 last year).

To be honest, I am very interested in finishing my latest book--entitled *God in Christ*--but I don't want to give up on the Senior Tour completely. I started off pretty lousy this year, but my game was unprepared. Believe it or not, I had not played one single round of golf since the final event of last year in November. And I only hit balls about two or three times in the three-month off season. But I am working on my game now, and think I'll do better.

Speaking of practicing, you may find this interesting. I'm really old-fashioned about my practice methods. I live in Friendswood, which is near Houston. We have plenty of nice golf courses around here, but I almost never practice at a golf course. Except for practicing my short game. If I'm going to hit full shots, I like to find some nice little park where I can take my own golf balls to and practice there. That way, I can hit the same balls I use in play. I'm not forced to hit those hard solid balls you find at most ranges. For me, that's a waste of time. And I don't mind shagging my own balls. I've got a nice spot where I've practiced for 15 or 20 years.



But writing books is something I hope to keep doing long after I stop playing the Senior Tour. When I started the Senior Tour, besides the three that I did have published, I had seven other book projects going. I hope to finish these books someday, and get them all published.

By the way, I know that talking about one's religion, or God and the Bible can be a turn-off to some people. I believe very strongly in the existence of God and that Jesus is the promised Messiah, but I don't want to pressure anyone or push my beliefs down their throat. I believe that part of being a Christian is being a part of secular society, so I want to have friends that don't necessarily believe the same things that I do. I like to interact with other people who see things differently from me, and I try to listen and perhaps learn from them. I believe I can sometimes learn from people who have a different philosophy about life. And who knows, maybe they'll learn something from me. I've always studied scholars who don't see things the way I do. So that's part of my religious philosophy.

Right now, after several weeks off, I'm looking forward to playing this week in San Antonio. And I'm looking forward to writing about my play in the future, so stay tuned.



Kermit's Stats

Date	Event	Finish	Scores	Total Score	Scoring Avg. (YTD)	Official Money	Total Money
2/18	GTE Suncoast	T42	76-75-73	224 (+11)	74.67	\$3,225	\$3,486
2/25	Amex Invitational	T61	69-72-77	218 (+2)	73.67	\$1,350	\$1,350
Total for Year (2 Events)						\$4,575	\$4,836

E-mail this story to a friend:

Send It

Customize It

[HOME](#) | [SEARCH](#) | [TRAVEL](#) | [FANTASY](#) | [PLAYERSCLUB](#) | [PROSHOP](#) | [CBS SPORTSLINE](#)

Copyright 1999 GolfWeb - A SportsLineUSA Company. All Rights Reserved.